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10/056,120

Remarks

Reconsideration of the Office Action is respectfully requested.

The specification has been objected to in that there are no section headings. Applicant respectfully declines to provide such headings, as they are not required. Please see MPEP 608.01(a).

The present invention is directed to an electric lamp provided with a lamp cap which is suitable for contacting external contacts, and which particularly is capable of contacting external contacts which may be located at different spacings. For example, such may be used in automotive as well as other applications where such variable spacings may be encountered and avoids the more expensive approach of having to provide a plurality of different lamp mounting sizes, each to a close tolerance.

In accordance with the invention, the lamp cap has a housing and first and second contact members connected by a spring which renders the second contact part displaceable from the first contact part in a direction transverse to a mounting direction to a degree sufficient to accommodate the variable spacings at which the external contact element may be located.

The claims stand rejected as being anticipated by Hall et al. (U.S. 5,250,874), Preziosi et al. (U.S. 3,859,554) or Hancox (U.S. 4,246,632) under 35USC102. These rejections are respectfully traversed as applied to the new claims presented herein.

None of the references are directed to the problem of providing a lamp cap which compensates for external contacts located at different spacings. The references show spring-like

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conductors which possibly undergo very small displacements when connection to an external contact is made. For example, see conductors 23 of Hancox, conductors 44 of Preziosi, or conductors 44 of Hall.

However, claim 1 has been amended to include the limitation that the second contact part is displaceable relative to the first contact part **to a degree sufficient to accommodate said variable spacings at which the external contact may be located.** Since none of the references show external contacts which may be located at variable spacings, this limitation is not met by the reference. Moreover, it would not be obvious to modify the references to include such a structure, since in general their design requires that the external contacts be at fixed locations, for example see contact 20 of Hancox which can only enter conductor 23 vertically because of the presence of restraining walls 25, or are of the plug-in type such as Hall where the lamp position is fixed and inherently there is no external variable contact spacing. Additionally, in the case of Preziosi, the external contacts 54 if variably spaced, would be so in a direction parallel to, rather than transverse to a mounting direction as required by claim 1.

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It is therefore submitted that claims 1 to 6 are directed to patentable subject matter. Inasmuch as all claims presented in the application are allowable, a Notice of Allowance is respectfully solicited.

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Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Martin Abramson", written over a horizontal line.

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